

How can international partners cooperate through ZIM?

ZIM cooperation projects are generally always possible between German organizations and their partners abroad. Here, the ZIM programme finances only the German partners involved, meaning the foreign organizations must secure funding themselves. The German companies, meanwhile, benefit from a 10% increase in funding (up to a maximum of 55%).

To encourage partnerships between German and foreign companies, the BMWi and several ministries and funding organizations from other countries have launched a number of bi- and multilateral funding agreements to support joint R&D projects.

These funding agreements provide financial support for joint R&D projects from the governments and national programmes involved. These projects should focus on the development of new and innovative technical products, technology-based services, or processes with strong market potential.

Bilateral funding agreements

Brazil (MDIC)
Canada (NRC | GCCIR Alberta)
Catalonia (ACCIO)
Finland (TEKES)
France (BPI FRANCE)
Singapore (SPRING)
South Korea (KIAT)
Vietnam (MOST)

Multilateral funding agreements

IraSME Network | EUREKA Network
ERANet-LAC | ERA.Net RUS Plus | INNO INDIGO

Current call deadlines and agreements available at
www.zim-bmwi.de/internationale-fue-kooperationen

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Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Energy



international
cooperations

International Cooperation Through ZIM

Funding for transnational joint R&D projects



What should ZIM joint R&D projects involve?

Eligible projects must involve at least one German company and one foreign partner working together to develop innovative technical products, services and industrial application processes with an eye toward commercializing them in their domestic and/or global markets. For all parties to benefit, the cooperation in question should be balanced and present a clear advantage and unique opportunities to create value. This might take the form of an increased knowledge base, an improved ability to meet commercial needs, or new application fields for existing technologies or capabilities.



How can you apply for bilateral SME funding?

→ Step 1: Find the right partner

If you are looking for a joint R&D project partner that will help you advance your idea, remember to be thorough in choosing one that matches your project-related needs. AiF Projekt GmbH may take a look at your project sketch, but it does not offer partner identification services.

→ Step 2: Plan your project

Once you have found a suitable partner, work together on structuring your R&D project and developing a proposal and consortium agreement. As you plan your joint endeavour, we highly recommend consulting with AiF Projekt GmbH (for German partners) and the respective national agencies of the other countries involved early on in the process.

What should partners from outside of Germany keep in mind?

Partners from other countries can either finance their contributions themselves and confirm as much in a letter of intent or take advantage of the national / regional funding programmes available to them.

For many countries, ZIM offers opportunities to cooperate through common calls for proposals with foreign funding agencies and ministries. In these calls, international partners must meet the criteria of their respective countries' national funding schemes and submit an application to the national funding agency in question. Detailed information can be found in each call announcement.



→ Step 3: Submit proposals

Along with a common proposal and consortium agreement, project partners must submit a separate application to the applicable national funding scheme. German companies:
ZIM application to AiF Projekt GmbH
Foreign partners:
Application to the corresponding ministry or agency.